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**LEEK RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL**



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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
of the  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
and the  
**PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**  
for the year 1956  
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September 1958

Hill Bros. (Leek) Ltd., Haywood Street, Leek.

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LEEK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1956

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR ROBERT W. CRITCHLOW

Vice-Chairman:

COUNCILLOR T. RILEY

Members:

Councillor	Rev. W. T. D. Attoe	Councillor	J. W. Heathcote
"	W. Axon	"	Mrs. M. A. Marshall
"	T. W. Buxton	"	H. Mear
"	J. L. Findlow	"	Mrs. M. Robson
"	J. W. Grindon	"	J. Rushton
"	R. G. Grindon	"	G. Shufflebotham
"	H. Hammond	"	P. Smith
"	J. Harrison	"	J. G. Stubbs
"	Major T. Horvey	"	E. Titterton
"	C. R. Hewlett	"	A. E. Wood

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

H. KELSO WATSON, M.B., Ch.B.

Public Health Inspector

D. K. PEDLEY, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I., Certified Food Inspector

Additional Public Health Inspector:

T. SPENCER, Cert. R.S.I.

REPORT

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	.. .. .	72,623	acres
Number of inhabited houses	... ..	5,441	
Rateable Value	... ..	£106,093	
Sum represented by penny rate	... ..	£272/ 0/8	
Estimated Population	... ..	18,380	
Number of persons per acre	... ..	.25	

INDUSTRIES

The main occupations of the inhabitants are farming and mining, but a substantial number of persons are employed in the silk mills in Leek, and in the quarries on the Derbyshire border.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	M	F	TOTAL
Legitimate	154	147	301
Illegitimate	11	2	13
	—	—	—
	165	149	314

Birthrate per 1,000 of the population—17.1

Stillbirths	M	F	TOTAL
Legitimate	2	—	2
Illegitimate	—	1	1
	—	—	—
	2	1	3

Rate per 1,000 of the population—.16

Deaths (all ages)	M	F	TOTAL
	100	86	186

Death rate per 1,000 of the population—10.2

Deaths of Infants (Under 1 year)	M	F	TOTAL
Legitimate	7	3	10
Illegitimate	1	1	2
	—	—	—
	8	4	12

Death rate per 1,000 live births—38.2

TUBERCULOSIS

The table below shows the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year, and figures for the nine preceding years are given for comparison purposes.

	Pulmonary Tuberculosis			Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis			Total (Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary)		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1956	113	96	209	31	33	64	144	129	273
1955	112	90	202	29	31	60	141	121	262
1954	111	88	199	30	32	62	141	120	261
1953	107	87	194	29	31	60	136	118	234
1952	106	80	186	27	30	57	133	110	243
1951	102	77	179	27	29	56	129	106	235
1950	99	74	173	31	30	61	130	104	234
1949	96	71	167	31	30	61	127	101	228
1948	78	66	144	31	29	60	109	95	204
1947	69	68	137	29	28	57	98	96	194

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The figures below show the Incidence of Infectious Diseases in 1956 in comparison to those of the three preceding years:

	1956	1955	1954	1953
Measles	174	190	180	54
Whooping Cough	33	22	114	35
Diphtheria	2	—	—	—
Pneumonia	2	4	10	4
Scarlet Fever	12	8	16	18
Erysipelas	1	2	5	2
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	1	2	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	4	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—
Pneum. Meningitis	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	1	1	—	1
Total Cases ...	225	232	327	114

Incidence of Infectious Diseases

Parishes	Measles	Whooping Cough	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis
Alstonefield		2							
Bognoll	3	2	1						
Brodnop	7					1			
Butterton	1								
Endon and Stonley	31	6	1					2	
Fow fieldhead									
Grindon									
Heothylee									
Heoton								1	1
Hollinsclough									
Horton	15		1				1		
Ilom									
Leekfrith									
Longnor									
Longsdon									
Norton-in-the-Moors	115	18	7	2	1			3	1
Onecote		3	1						
Quornford		2			1				
Rushton			1						
Sheen									
Tittesworth									
Worslow and Elkstones								1	1
Wetton	2								
Total	174	33	12	2	2	1	1	7	3

Months of Occurrence

Jonuory	19	3	3	2					
Februory	82								2
Morch	37		2						
April	26		1						
Moy	5				1				
June	1							2	1
July	3		1		1	1		2	
August	1	3	3						
Septembe		11	1					2	
October							1		
November								1	
December		16	1						
Total	174	33	12	2	2	1	1	7	3

Age Incidence of Infectious Diseases

AGE GROUP	Measles		Whooping Cough		Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Primary Pneumonia		Polymyelitis		Erysipelas		Food Poisoning		Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year ...	4	1	2	1						1										
1 year ...	10	4	12	1																
2 years ...	9	5	1	2			1													
3 years ...	1	9	2	2					1											
4 years ...	13	10		2	2	1	1													
5—9 years ...	53	45	12	1	1	2											1			
10—14 years ...	2	3															1			
15—24 years ...	1	1											1				1			
25—44 years ...																				
45—64 years ...																				
65 and over ...																				
Total (all ages) ...	96	78	19	14	9	3	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	1	2	1
TOTAL — Male and Female ...	174		33		12		2		2		—		1		1		3		3	

Causes of Death in Leek Rural District 1956

Causes of Death	Males	Females
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	—	—
Tuberculosis, Other	1	—
Syphilitic disease	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningococcal infection	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2
Other malignant lymphatic neoplasms	6	7
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	1
Diabetes	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	17	22
Coronary disease, angina	15	15
Hypertension with heart disease	2	4
Other heart disease	23	14
Other circulatory disease	4	2
Influenza	—	—
Pneumonia	2	2
Branchitis	5	1
Other disease of respiratory system	1	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
Congenital malformations	2	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	8
Motor Vehicle accidents	3	1
All other accidents	6	1
Suicide	—	—
Homicide and operations of war	—	—
Total — all causes	100	86

Sanitary inspection of the Area —

Summary of Visits

HOUSING:

(a) Inspection for defects	53
(b) Council House applicants	111
(c) Council House Management	126
(d) Moveable dwellings	11
(e) Housing Inspections	447
(f) Improvement Grant applicants	139
	887

GENERAL:

Inspection of premises for nuisances	120
Food premises	15
Slaughterhouses and Knackers' yard	943
Drainage inspections	282
Proposed drainage and conversions	100
Water supplies—general	103
Samples of water taken	154
Shops	23
Refuse and nightsoil collection and disposal	130
Infectious diseases	25
Fumigations and Infestations	17
Rodent control	116
Factories	14
Petroleum stores	2
Swimming Pool	2
Miscellaneous	79
	3012

NOTICES SERVED

1.	Informal Notices	179
	Statutory Notices	—
2.	(a) Number of Nuisances Remedied	71
	(b) Number of defective dwellings rendered fit following service of Statutory and Informal notices	83

Water supplies

A mains water supply is available in the following ports of the District:—

The Parishes of Harton and Longsdon (ports) and parts of the parish of Endon and Stanley are supplied by the Rural District Council's undertaking which obtains its supply in bulk at Paal End from the Leek Urban District Council's borehole.

The Parishes of Bagnall, Nartan-in-the-Moors, and parts of the Parishes of Longsdon, and Endon and Stanley are supplied by the Staffordshire Patteries Water Board.

The Council also maintains small village supplies at Langnor, Grindan and Warslow but both the quantity and quality of these supplies have to be kept under constant supervision.

It is anticipated, now that the first stage of the Eastern Parishes Water Scheme, namely the supply at Ilam, Alstonefield and Wetton is virtually complete, that the second and major portion will soon be under way and thus bring the end of these small village schemes in sight.

One hundred and twenty-one samples of water were taken during the year for Bacteriological examination and thirty three for Chemical Analysis.

The results of these are tabulated below:—

Source	Bacteriological Examination			Chemical Analysis		
	No. of Samples Taken	Fit	Unfit	No. of Samples Taken	Fit	Unfit
Well	20	8	12	17	6	11
Spring	65	38	27	13	8	5
Borehole	32	18	14	2	2	—
Stream	4	1	3	1	—	1
Total	121	65	56	33	16	17

Two analyses indicated that the water had plumbo-solvent action, but as these samples were taken in respect of proposed supplies they were not proceeded with.

Horton, Longsdon and Rudyard Water Scheme

No. of connections during the year 19

Total No. of Properties now connected:—

	Dwelling Houses	Farms and other Metered Supplies
Endon	9	1
Horton	79	32
Longsdon	24	9
	<hr/> 112	<hr/> 42

EASTERN PARISHES WATER SUPPLY. SECTION "A" PART 1

This scheme which was commenced in October, 1954, is now to all intents and purposes complete. All the mains are laid and the large Reservoir at Wetton and the small Reservoir and Pumping Station at Ilam are also finished and it is anticipated that service connections to properties in the three parishes of Ilam, Wetton and Alstonefield will commence early in 1957.

In view of the considerable amount of work that has been met with during the laying of the mains, the progress of the work can be deemed to have been satisfactory.

It is obvious that some difficult work will be met with when some of the service connections are being carried out.

Drainage and Sewerage

Work continued on the Light Oaks and Brown Edge (Syth Road) sewerage scheme during the year.

Considerable difficulty was experienced in the Light Oaks area with considerable quantities of Rock, and resort had to be made to drilling and shot firing on a number of sections.

Some inconvenience to the general public was also occasioned because of the need to close Bagnall Road, Cinder Hill and other roads during the progress of the works.

The New Electric Sewage Pump installed at the Endon Sewage disposal works has brought about some improvement, but these works like those at Baddeley Green and Narton Green are sadly overloaded and not capable of dealing with the large burden imposed upon them. Every endeavour, is of course, being made to cope with the difficult conditions at these works.

Refuse and Nightsoil Collection and Disposal

The Collection of house refuse and nightsail was carried out by direct labour in every parish of the Council's area, five modern law-loading type vehicles being employed for this purpose. Three are used primarily for refuse collection, one for nightsoil collection, and one for the dual purpose of refuse and nightsail collection, the latter two vehicles being fitted with purpose-made tanks for nightsail carriage.

The several refuse tips were kept in a reasonable order and measures were taken to keep them free from vermin from time to time.

HOUSING

New Houses Erected During the Year

(a) By Local Authority—Norton Green Site (50 houses, 8 flats)	58
(b) By Notional Coal Board—Boddeley Green Site	78
(c) By Private Enterprise	161
	<hr/>
	297
	<hr/>

Action taken under the Housing Acts during the year

Demolition and Closing Orders:

Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal action under the Housing Act, 1936. Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owner	Nil
Parts of Building closed	Nil
Closing Orders made under Housing Act, 1949	Nil
Closing Orders made under Local Government Act, 1953	5

Repairs

Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit by informal action under the Public Health or Housing Acts	83
Number of houses where defects were remedied after service of formal notices under Public Health Acts	
(a) by owners	Nil
(b) by local authority	Nil
Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices under the Housing Act, 1936.	
(a) by owners	Nil
(b) by local authority	Nil
Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked under Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954	Nil

Unfit houses in temporary use

Houses licensed for temporary occupation under Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954	Nil
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Purchase of houses by agreement

Houses purchased in Clearance Areas (other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders)	Nil
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FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948

NUMBER OF FACTORIES ON REGISTER	23
NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS MADE	14

Only one factory is of any size. No controventions were discovered during the inspections made.

A small number of outworkers are employed, chiefly by the Silk Manufacturers in Leek and are concerned with the finishing of wearing apparel.

Improvement Grants

Number of applications received during the year	34
Number of Improvement Grants made in respect of:	
(a) Improvements to existing houses	31
(b) Conversion of buildings into living accommodation —	
Total cost of work involved qualifying for grant	£21,856
Total value of improvement grants approved	£8,358
Number of Improvement Grant applications refused or withdrawn	2
Number of Improvement Grant applications in abeyance	5
Number of Improvement Works completed during the year ...	22

Of the 31 grants approved, 29 were in respect of owner-occupied property and 2 in respect of tenanted property.

RODENT CONTROL

The public sewers were twice test-baited and infested sections were successfully treated in accordance with the recommended practice of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Maintenance treatments were carried out at the Council's refuse tips and sewage disposal works.

A disinfection service is provided for residential and business premises and all infestations reported during the year were satisfactorily treated.

PETROLEUM ACTS

Fifty-one licences were issued for the bulk storage of 69,600 gallons of Petroleum spirit.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

Carcases inspected	Cattle	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	1158	158	3498	507	—
Number inspected	1158	158	3498	507	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	—	1	—	—	—
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	115	—	229	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	9.93	.63	6.3	—	—
Tuberculosis only:	2	—	—	—	—
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	161	—	—	3	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	14.08	—	—	0.59	—
Cysticercosis	4	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	4	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

MEAT AND OFFAL CONDEMNED

Weight of Meat condemned due to:—

(a) Tuberculosis	3,957 lbs.
(b) Other diseases or conditions	2,061 lbs.
	<hr/> 6,018 lbs.

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED

2 Tins Corned Beef (24 ozs.).

FOOD INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION

FOOD SHOPS AND PREPARING PREMISES

Fifty-nine shops are registered under the Act for the sale of Ice Cream.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

One case of food poisoning was notified during the year.

MILK SUPPLY

THE MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS AND THE SPECIAL DESIGNATION REGULATIONS

(1)	Na. of Distributors	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
(2)	No. of licences issued to sell—							
					Dealers		Supplementary	
(a)	Tuberculin Tested Milk	...			13		2	
(b)	Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	22		3	
(c)	Pasturised Milk	...	...		13		3	
					<u>48</u>		<u>8</u>	

H. KELSO WATSON

Medical Officer of Health.

D. K. PEDLEY

Public Health Inspector

